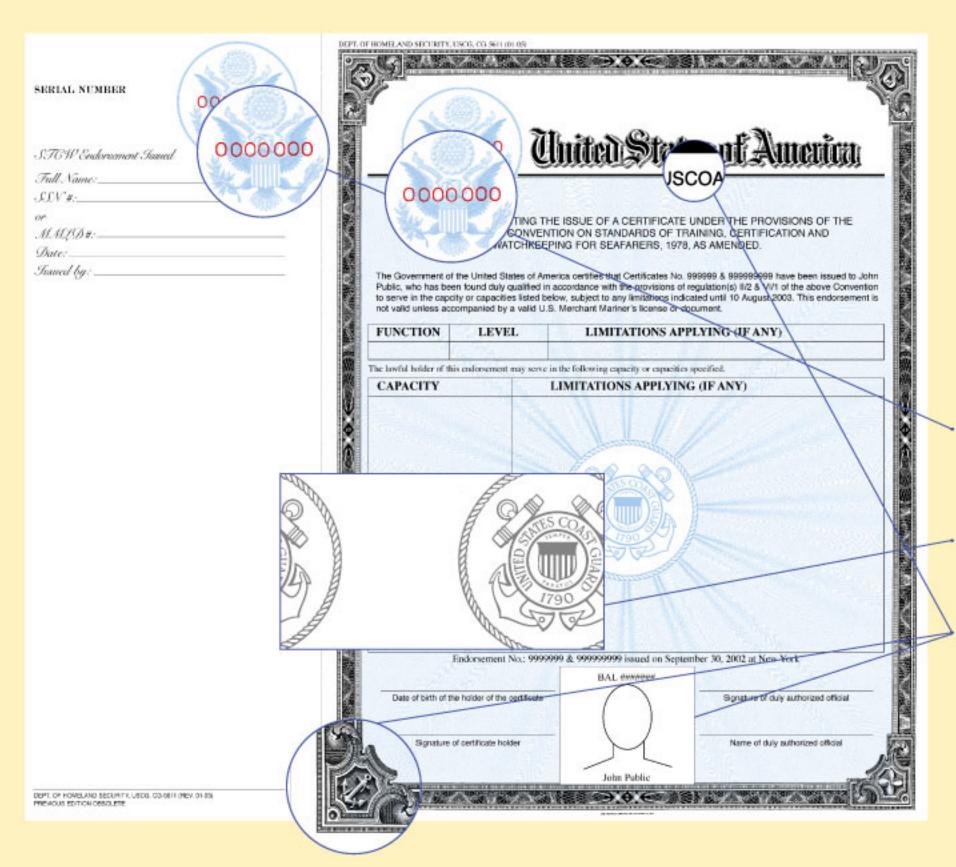
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

USCG, CG-5611

New U.S. STCW Endorsement Design with Security in Mind...



The U.S. form was originally a black and white 8.5"x11" document. The following enhancements have been made to the endorsement to make it a more secure and accountable document.

FORMAT CHANGE:

The new 8.5" x 11" forms will be supplied to the Coast Guard issuing offices on perforated pages in bound books. The forms are detached from the stub for preparation. The remaining stub provides a record of who the endorsement was issued to, by whom, and when. This provides a backup to electronic records.



SERIAL NUMBERS:

The stub and endorsement will have matching serial numbers. This allows precision when referring to specific endorsements, and it ensures that each endorsement is unique.

WATERMARKS:

As another safeguard against counterfeiting, a watermark depicting the U.S. Coast Guard Seal is chemically etched into the paper.

NEW GRAPHICS:

The biggest improvements to the endorsements are the new graphics. They make it difficult to alter the form or to make a credible reproduction. Microprinting, non-reproducible blue ink and fine line details make this document more secure. The micro-printed line that can only be seen with magnification, light blue ink that is difficult for copiers or scanners to reproduce and fine line details that get lost if copied, combine to make copied documents quickly recognizable. The photo of the mariner will be printed directly onto the endorsement. The photo will be maintained in the Coast Guard's national database of seafarer information.